

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended). A method of making a container carrier, comprising steps of:
providing a handle sheet and a carrier sheet;

positioning the handle sheet on at least a portion of the carrier sheet;

connecting the handle sheet and the carrier sheet along a line of attachment;

5 forming a container holding portion only in the carrier sheet, including forming first and second rows of container receiving apertures in the carrier sheet on opposite sides of the line of attachment after said steps of positioning and connecting; and

forming a handle portion only in the handle sheet, including forming holes in the handle sheet simultaneously with forming the first row of apertures, the holes and the first row of apertures
10 formed in substantially the same configurations by cutting through overlying portions of said handle sheet and said carrier sheet and thereby forming said holes and said first row of apertures in overlying arrangement.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, said step of connecting performed by creating a substantially continuous weld between said sheets.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, including connecting the handle sheet with the carrier sheet along first and second spaced lines of attachment; and thereafter removing a portion of the handle sheet between the first and second spaced lines of attachment to define first and second handle sheet portions separate from each other.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, including forming the first row of apertures between one of the lines of attachment and an edge of the carrier sheet, forming the second row of apertures between the lines of attachment; and

forming a third row of apertures in the carrier sheet on an opposite side of the other of the
5 lines of attachment from the second row of apertures.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, including forming holes in the handle sheet simultaneously with forming the third row of apertures in overlying arrangement by cutting through overlying portions of said handle sheet and said carrier sheet.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, including forming first and second handles in said handle sheet outwardly of the holes with respect to said first and second lines of attachment.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, including forming a merchandising panel simultaneously with forming at least one of the first and second handles.

8. (currently amended) A method of making a container carrier, comprising steps of:

providing a handle sheet and a carrier sheet;

positioning the handle sheet against the carrier sheet;

5 connecting the handle sheet and the carrier sheet along spaced first and second lines of attachment;

removing a strip of the handle sheet between the lines of attachment, leaving a first handle portion of the handle sheet outwardly from the first line of attachment and a second handle portion of the handle sheet outwardly from the second line of attachment;

10 forming a first row of container receiving apertures in the carrier sheet outwardly from the first line of attachment and simultaneously forming holes in the first handle portion of the handle sheet similarly shaped to the first row of apertures by cutting through overlying portions of the carrier sheet and the handle sheet to form the holes in the first handle portion and the first row of apertures in overlying arrangement;

15 forming a second row of apertures in the carrier sheet between the first and second lines of attachment; and

forming a third row of container receiving apertures in the carrier sheet outwardly from the second line of attachment and simultaneously forming holes in the second handle portion of the handle sheet similarly shaped to the third row of apertures by cutting through overlying portions of the carrier sheet and the handle sheet to form the holes in the second handle portion and the third row of apertures in overlying arrangement;

20 said forming steps being performed after said steps of positioning and connecting.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, said forming steps performed by die cutting.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, including providing the handle sheet wider than the carrier sheet, positioning the sheets with first and second margin portions of the handle sheet extending beyond the carrier sheet on opposite sides, and forming handles in the margin portions of the handle sheet outwardly of the carrier sheet.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, said forming steps performed by die cutting.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, including forming a handle in the handle sheet and simultaneously forming a merchandising panel in the carrier sheet configured substantially the same as the handle.

13. (original) The method of claim 8, including providing the handle sheet of material different from the material of the carrier sheet.

14. - 19. (canceled).